

BEST OF THE WEST
CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR
2024
WESTERN NORTH AMERICAN ARCHERY COMPETITION

OFFICIAL RULES

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I. ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATIONS TO SHOOT, AND AWARDS

A. Event Registration

Archers wishing to compete in the Best of the West Archery Championships must Pre-Register at www.bestofthewestarchery.com or sign up at the event sign in on the morning of the first day of the event. Tour fees must be paid in addition to the regular club shoot fees. Club shoot fees will be collected by a representative from the hosting club and Tour fees will be collected by a representative from the Best of the West Archery Championships.

B. Classes

1. Archers may only sign up in one class and must stay in that class throughout the Tour.
2. For Tour rankings and prizes archers must compete in one of the available Tour classes. However, they may also compete in any of the applicable host club classes for the host club shoot.
3. Awards and classes for the host club shoot will remain separate from the Tour results.

C. Qualification to Participate in the Finals

In order to compete in the Finals an archer must attend at least 3 qualifying tour events. Archers will be ranked by adding their top 3 scores from any tour qualifier. The top 5 archers will be eligible to compete at the finals. In the event there are not 5 people in a class who have attended 3 events the archers will be ranked according to their total score achieved at the qualifying events they did attend.

D. Awards, Purses, and Entry Fees

1. All classes will receive an award for 1st, 2nd and 3rd with 50% of the registration money being paid back during the Tour Qualifier at a rate of 60%-1st, 30%-2nd and 10%-3rd. The balance of the registration money will be collected to be awarded to the winners of the finals at a rate of 60%-1st, 30%-2nd and 10%-3rd

Example: 10 entrants in a qualifier makes the purse \$400.00. \$200 is paid back at the Qualifier with \$120 to 1st, \$60 to 2nd and \$20 to 3rd. The balance of the purse will be added to the balances from the other 4 qualifiers and awarded at the Finals.

Example: 6 events with 10 entrants at each event the purse will be \$2400. \$1200 will be paid back at the qualifiers so the balance will be paid out at the finals and a rate of \$720-1st, \$360-2nd and \$120-3rd.

2. Entry fees to all Tour Qualifiers is \$40.00 in addition to Host club shoot fees.
3. Entry fee to the finals is \$0.
4. Cash will be awarded at qualifier events and Checks will be given at the Finals

II. TARGETS AND SCORING AREAS

A. Targets

1. At all shooting events, targets shall consist of 3-D type animal / exotic targets having official IBO scoring areas of 11, 10, 8, 5.
2. Host clubs may mix the size of the animals so long as the targets have official IBO scoring areas.
3. Targets shall be set at unmarked distances, except for the known distance classes.
4. Targets should be set so they are distinguishable with their vital areas (8 ring) unobstructed.

Care shall be taken when setting targets not to over rotate or excessively lean the targets to ensure that the entire vital area can be safely shot.

B. Scoring Areas

For all shooting events, the targets shall have scoring areas as follows:

1. An “11” ring consisting of a circle centered within the 10 ring. The circle size should be approximately twenty five percent (25%) of the size of the 10 ring.
2. A 10 ring consisting of a circle inside the vital area.
3. A vital area (8 ring) that roughly approximates the heart, lung, and liver area of the appropriate animal.
4. The remainder of the animal shall be considered a “body” except as set out in Paragraph 5 below.
5. An arrow embedded in the horn of an animal, not touching body color, is considered a miss and is scored as a zero. Targets with legs or hooves of a different color than the main body will still be considered as body color for scoring.
6. Some targets have material surrounding the actual outline of a target animal. This additional material will NOT be counted for score.

III. EQUIPMENT

A. Grains per Pound and Arrow Speed

1. Arrows must weigh at least five (5) grains per pound of the bow’s maximum shooting weight unless the archer’s equipment qualifies for the exception set out in Paragraph 2 below. Shooting weight is defined as the bow’s maximum draw or thrust weight, as set up at the time of competition. A variance of two (2) pounds of draw weight shall be allowed for bow scale variation. Equipment qualifying in this paragraph (III.A.1) shall have no limit on arrow speed.

2. In the case where an archer's equipment, when shot at five (5) grains per pound, does not generate 290 fps, that archer may shoot arrows weighing less than five (5) grains per pound. However, equipment qualifying under this paragraph (III.A.2) shall not exceed an arrow speed of 290 fps.
3. Draw weight shall not be adjusted after entering the shooting course. Adjustments can be made only after the conclusion of a range. Doing so will be considered poor sportsmanship and subject to disqualification unless adjustment is necessary during the period allowed for equipment failure.
4. It is recommended that archers do not exceed manufacturer's recommended limits on arrow weight and draw weight.
5. Regardless of speed or arrow weight configuration, all archers must comply with maximum draw weight restrictions for their class as outlined below. (Rule III.B)
6. A maximum arrow diameter of 27/64 (.422) will be allowed with an allowance of up to .425" for arrow point diameter.

B. Maximum Draw Weight

1. The maximum draw weight for all classes is 80 lbs.

A two (2)-pound variance for bow scale variation will be allowed.

C. Sights, Overdraws, Unusual Equipment, Etc.

1. Overdraws are permitted in all Compound classes.
2. There is no limit to the number of pins on a sight but there cannot be a pin that is not uniform in alignment with the other pins. This rule is meant to prevent the use of a "belly pin" to bracket the animal.
3. A sight used in a fixed-pin class may not be adjusted once the archer enters the shooting course.
4. Sights that project a laser light or other aiming dot on the target are illegal in all classes.
5. An archer using new or unusual equipment not addressed by class definitions or elsewhere in these rules will be required to shoot in one of the open classes.
6. A verifier or clarifier style peep sight will be allowed in all classes that permit the use of sights.
7. No type of draw check or clicker may be used in the traditional class.

IV. SHOOTING RULES AND ETIQUETTE

A. Shooting Etiquette

1. Shooting groups shall not consist solely of friends and relatives. Such groups shall be "busted" by including at least one outsider who will keep score, whenever possible. A group of friends and or

relatives must be aware that good sportsmanship requires an additional competitor/scorekeeper be added to their group. The archers in a group of teammates, friends, and or relatives are required to make range officials aware of this situation. Failing to do so is unsportsmanlike conduct.

2. All shooting groups shall establish a shooting rotation. Groups that contain archers shooting from different stakes will follow the shooting rotation while ensuring that no archer advances beyond their assigned stake before shooting. No archer (or spectator) shall approach a target prior to the entire group shooting.
3. When shooting, the archer must be within 2' of the appropriate stake with some part of his or her body. At times, stakes are set to challenge the archer with various shooting positions. Alterations to the ground around the shooting stake, using any tools or leveling aids, natural or otherwise, is not permitted.
4. Each archer shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) minutes to complete his or her shot. This rule shall operate as follows:
 - a. Time will begin for the first archer when the previous group clears the target. Time will begin for the next archer when the previous archer releases his or her arrow.
 - b. Archers should be sensitive to the time concerns of the groups behind them and make every attempt to shoot in a timely manner. An archer found to be over his or her allotted time by a range official may have five (5) points deducted from his or her score. If the actions of a whole group are contrary to this rule, each person in the group may have five (5) points deducted from his or her score. Repeated violation of an archer's two (2)-minute time limit is considered to be unsportsmanlike conduct.
 - c. After shooting, the shooter should immediately clear the stake for the next shooter. Using binoculars from the shooting stake after the shot is prohibited. Repeated violations of this rule will result in a five (5)-point deduction of the shooter's score for each violation.
 - d. In order to support the two minute time limitation, an archer at the shooting stake may not let down more than three times. Let down is defined as drawing to anchor, then letting down and not taking the shot. If an archer lets down more than three times, he or she shall receive a score of zero for that target.
5. There shall be no discussion of yardage until all arrows have been scored. Discussion of yardage is permitted only among archers who have shot the subject target and must be done in a manner to ensure that other archers who have yet to shoot the target will not be assisted.
6. Sight tapes, which are being used during competition, must be covered to prevent yardage from being disclosed to other competitors.
7. No more than one umbrella may be used to assist a shooter at the stake. The maximum size for an umbrella used on a range shall be "golf sized."

8. All competitive events are based on a "free-hand" style of shooting. No archer shall use any device such as shooting sticks, slings or other such accessories or shooting positions to create a "braced" shot.
9. Lighted nocks are a distraction to other members in the group and are not permitted.

B. Scoring

1. Scorecards

- a. At all Qualifying shooting events, two score cards must be completed for each archer. The White card is the competitor's card and will be used in reference to the official colored card. Scorecards must have the archer's name and class printed on them.
- b. Scorecards must be split between two scorekeepers so that each scorekeeper has one card for each archer. Both scorekeepers must agree on a score, compare and record the score before the arrows are pulled from the target. Scorecards will be marked with an X or a O in the correct scoring box for each target prior to being turned in. No person may score their own official colored card.
- c. Arrows pulled early will receive a zero. Repeated violations of this rule will result in the offending archer being disqualified.
- d. If the two scorekeepers for a group mistakenly record different scores, the inconsistent scores must be corrected as agreed upon by the majority of the group. The error must be crossed out with the correct score circled and initialed by the scorer and the archer. If agreement by the majority of the group is not possible, the shooter will receive the higher of the two scores.
- e. Scorecards will be checked at the end of each course. Each group's Official colored scorecards must be turned in together by the entire group and the end of the second round.
- f. Scorecards must be legible, complete, and signed by the archer to be accepted. No scorecard may be changed by a competitor or scorekeeper after submitting it to a Tournament official.
- g. Archers shall be responsible for their own scorecards. It is up to each archer to ensure that his or her scorecard meets the above requirements.
- h. Duplicate cards will not be issued to replace lost or damaged cards, except in unusual circumstances approved by the host and or tournament officials in their sole discretion.
- i. Any attempt by an archer to knowingly falsify a score, or knowingly allow another to falsify his or her score, shall result in a disqualification of that archer for that shooting event, and that archer shall be ineligible to participate in a Best of the West shooting event for a one (1)-year period.

- j. The Best of the West Officials reserve the right, in its sole discretion, to correct harmless errors including but not limited to, score tabulation, lack of initials or signature, posting, etc., which in the opinion of the Best of the West Officials are clearly not a result of an attempted inflation of the archer's score.

2. Scoring Arrows

- a. Scores will be tabulated as follows:
 - i. 11 points: 11 ring or "X" ring centered inside the 10 ring.
 - ii. 10 points: 10 ring or heart
 - iii. 8 points: Vital
 - iv. 5 points: Body
 - v. 0 points: Miss or arrow not touching body color.
- b. If more than one scoring area is visible on a target, the host club of the event shall note which area shall be used at the shooting stake. In the event that such a target is not posted, either scoring area can be used.
- c. An arrow shaft touching the line of a greater scoring area shall be given the higher score. Arrow parts that extend beyond the shaft such as feathers, vanes, or nock collars, cannot be used to score the arrow.
- d. Arrows must stick in the target in order to receive a score other than a zero with the exception of a pass-through, robinhood, or bounce-back as set out in Paragraphs (e) (f), and (g) below.
- e. An arrow that passes through a target may be scored if witnessed and agreed upon by the majority of archers in the group. A pass-through is an arrow passing completely through the target with material 360 degrees around the arrow, leaving a separate entrance and exit hole. If the pass-through was witnessed by a member of the group other than the shooter, and the group cannot agree, the archer may re-shoot the target before the group advances to score the target.
- f. All whole arrows, or partial arrows that include the point, that are sticking in the target shall be scored where they penetrate the target. An arrow embedded into the nock end of an arrow embedded in the target shall be scored the same as the arrow embedded into the target. An arrow that hits another arrow—with the arrow being struck showing visible damage—that does not stick in the target shall be given the score of the arrow that was struck. The majority of the group must agree that 1) a particular arrow was struck, and 2) that striking the arrow prevented the arrow from sticking in the target, or the arrow shall be scored as a miss.

- g. A bounce-back is an arrow that squarely strikes the target and bounces back toward the shooter. An arrow that glances off the target is not considered a bounce-back. A bounce-back may be scored if the score can be agreed upon by the majority of archers in the group. If a member of the group other than the archer witnesses the bounce-back and the group cannot agree, the archer may re-shoot the target before the group advances to score the target.
- h. An arrow released or dropped accidentally will be scored a zero unless the archer is able to retrieve it while touching the stake and re-shoot it within that archer's two-minute period.
- i. Any arrow intentionally shot into the ground or any object other than the target shall be considered an act of unsportsmanlike conduct and the arrow scored a zero.

C. Binoculars and Rangefinders

1. Rangefinders and range finding binoculars may only be used in the Known classes.
2. For all unknown classes, an archer may not use parts of his or her body, the bow, or any other accessories or equipment to calculate yardage. Archers using adjustable sights may not adjust their sight elevation after drawing the bow and sighting the target. Any mark on otherwise legal binoculars that could be construed as a reference point for range finding is prohibited.
3. Hand-held binoculars are allowed without magnification limitations.
4. Binoculars shall not be used at the stake after the shot has been taken. Archers may utilize binoculars to view the target while waiting their turn at the shooting stake or from an on-deck area behind a group that is in the process of shooting a target.

D. Equipment Failures and Leaving the Course

1. Once an archer begins a shooting course, he or she must finish with his or her group. If an individual must leave the range due to equipment failure or medical emergency, they must have their score cards signed by the group they left and the new group they join when they return to finish the course.
2. Once an archer begins a shooting course, he or she may not exchange equipment unless there is an equipment failure as set out below.
3. EQUIPMENT FAILURES. Equipment failures must be visible and agreed upon by the majority of the group. The procedure for dealing with equipment failures shall be as follows:
 - a. The scorekeepers for the group shall write "equipment failure" on the scorecard of the archer with the equipment failure and sign the scorecard.
 - b. The scorekeepers will tabulate the archer's score to that point and initial the cards appropriately.

- c. The archer with the equipment failure shall then cautiously proceed forward through the course and exchange equipment or make necessary repairs.
- d. If three or more archers remain in the group, they may continue shooting. If two or fewer remain, they may proceed through the course with the person with the equipment failure and resume shooting once the repair has been made together as a group. Or may wait and join the next group as long as it does not make a group of more than 6 people.
- e. When the repairs are completed, the archer may proceed through the course to the next target they need to shoot and wait to join a group there. The new group scorers must initial the score card at the previous score and proceed as a group
- f. Any archer leaving the range without following the guidelines as set out in section (D) of this rule may be disqualified.

E. Tie Scores, Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Misc.

1. All ties will be decided by a shoot off. A shoot-off will consist of a 3-D animal set at an unknown distance, within the limits of the relevant class, (known distance for Known category) and an "X" shall be placed in the center of the highest-scoring area. The archer whose arrow is the closest to the "X" will be declared the winner. If only one archer is present at the shoot-off, he or she will be declared the winner. If neither archer is present, prize money will be added together and divided equally between those who are tied. In the event a tie for the last spot to compete in the Finals, the 11 count from the 3 highest scores will determine the placings to compete in the finals. In the event of a tied 11 count, the archer's placings at the qualifying events will determine rankings.
2. No alcoholic beverages may be carried or consumed on any shooting course, range, or practice area by anyone during shooting hours. If in the opinion of a range official, an archer who is under the influence of alcohol attempts to enter a course, range, or practice area, the archer will not be allowed to shoot and will be suspended from that competition.
3. Spectators shall not distract, interfere with, or assist archers while on the shooting course or range.
4. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Any action considered unsportsmanlike by the host club or the Best of the West staff will be grounds for disqualification and/or suspension from the Championships.

Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Projecting any illuminated aiming point onto a target.
- b. Littering or improper disposal of trash.
- c. Communicating to another archer the yardage of a particular target that the other archer has not yet shot.

- d. All forms of electronic communication are prohibited while on the shooting range unless communication is required for an emergency. Cell phone and other devices must be silenced before entering the range.
- e. Disobeying or disregarding the orders of a range official or shoot official.
- f. Using performance enhancing drugs.
- g. Any otherwise-listed rule violation.

V. SHOOTING CLASSES

A. Compound Senior

Limited to archers over the age of 60. A compound, shot with no restriction on sights, stabilizers, or style of release. Rangefinders are allowed. When shooting in groups with archers not in Known Distance, distances must not be relayed to other shooters.

B. Compound Fixed Pin

A compound, recurve, or longbow shot with or without sights. A sight shall have fixed pins, crosshair, or circle style pins. Fixed pin archers may use a lens with no restrictions on magnification. If circle style pins are used, all circles must be the same size. A sight may have a rear aperture, (i.e., peep sight or fixed rifle type sight). Sights may not be adjusted after entering the shooting course. Arrows must have at least three (3) feathers or vanes no less than 2 inches long (measured minimum 1.75 inches). Stabilizers, V-bars, counterbalances, or weighted attachments may be attached to the bow as long as these items do not extend more than 18 inches from each point of attachment. (For the purposes of this rule, any device adding length or weight to the stabilizer shall be considered part of the stabilizer and shall be subject to the 18-inch rule. Unweighted vibration dampeners are not considered to be stabilizers; however, unweighted vibration dampeners attached to the stabilizer are measured as a part of the stabilizer and are subject to the 18-inch rule above. Equipment in this class may be shot with finger tab, shooting glove or release. Unknown distance. Rangefinders are not allowed in possession including range finding binoculars. No discussion of yardage permitted until after all members of the group have shot. "Cheat Sheets" of any kind that have information on targets or target distances are not allowed. I.e. can not write down distances from day 1 to use on day 2.

C. Traditional

A recurve or longbow, shot with fingers directly contacting the bowstring using a glove, finger tab or bare fingers. Archers may use two (2) nock locating devices but must use the same nocking point and anchor point. Index finger must contact the nock of the arrow. No string walking or face walking. Arrows must be shot off the shelf, hand or stick on style rest. Plunger buttons and stick on rests that incorporate a plunger are not allowed. Shelf can only be built up $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch and built out $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch. A draw check device i.e. clicker is not allowed. No stabilizers, counterbalances, or weights of any kind may be attached or built into the bow, except a quiver clearly designed to hold arrows may be used. No face or string walking. No markings on the bow or bow string (intentional or accidental) that could be

considered sighting marks. Any type of arrow material can be used, but arrows must be uniform in color and length except normal wear and tear. Traditional archers shoot from the traditional stake.

D. Compound Unknown

A compound, shot with no restriction on sights, stabilizers, or style of release. Unknown distance. Rangefinders are not allowed in possession including range finding binoculars. No discussion of yardage permitted until after all members of the group have shot. "Cheat Sheets" of any kind that have information on targets or target distances are not allowed. I.e. can not write down distances from day 1 to use on day 2.

1. Compound Female Unknown

Female archers may compete in the Compound Female Unknown class following the rules of either the Compound Unknown or Compound Fixed Pin classes as set forth in section V(B) and V(D) of the official rules. A handicap of 16 points will be added to the qualification scores of all participants following the Compound Fixed Pin class rules. A handicap of 1 point will be added to the Finals scores of all participants following the Compound Fixed Pin class rules.

E. Compound Known

A compound, shot with no restriction on sights, stabilizers, or style of release. Rangefinders are allowed. When shooting in groups with archers not in Known Distance, distances must not be relayed to other shooters.

VI. RULE VIOLATIONS

A. Rule Violations

1. Any person in violation of the above rules may be disqualified from the event in which they are participating and may be suspended from the Tour. No warnings are necessary prior to imposing a disqualification, suspension, other discipline, or penalty.
2. Any person suspended from an event shall not be allowed to compete in the Finals.
3. Range and event officials are to be respected and have the authority to disqualify an archer from an event for unsafe behavior and/or violations of the above rules.